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REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-62 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-2, 8-15, 21-24 and 46-53 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dempster, U.S. Patent No. 5,105,825 ("Dempster '825").

Claims 3-7, 16-20, 25-45 and 54-62 have been indicated to contain allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of any intervening claims.

Summary of Applicant's Reply

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of claims 1-2, 8-15, 21-24 and 46-53.

Reply to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

First, the undersigned thanks the Examiner for the interview conducted on February 25, 2004, with Messr. Douglas Oguss. At that interview, the Examiner agreed to reconsider his Final Rejection.

Previously, Messr. Oguss had requested to arrange an interview with Examiner and his Supervising Patent Examiner, Messr. John Barlow, to discuss the relevance of the Dempster '825 reference. Before such interview was conducted, Examiner privately discussed the Dempster '825 rejections with his Supervisor (Messr. Barlow). Based on these discussions, Examiner agreed to reconsider his final rejection.

In accordance with Examiner's instructions given to Messr. Oguss during the February 25, 2004 interview, applicant has set forth previously-presented arguments hereinbelow, so that the Examiner may reconsider the pertinence of the Dempster '825 reference.